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DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF WOOD-RAT
FROM CERROS ISLAND,
Off Lower California.

(*Neotoma Bryanti* sp. nov.)

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DIBSON BROS. PRS. NAMA



Description of a New Species of Wood-Rat from Cerros Island, off Lower California (*Neotoma bryanti* sp. nov.).—Mr. Walter E. Bryant has kindly presented to me the skin and skull of a wood-rat collected by him January 11, 1885, on Cerros Island, off Lower California, in lat. $28^{\circ} 12' N$.

Concerning its capture he writes as follows: "On the shore of a small, shallow lake, about two thousand feet in altitude, on Cerros Island, I found a nest composed of the large dry leaves of the Maguey plant (*Agave*). It was built among small living plants of the same kind, which held it so firmly that I could not overturn it. It was about four feet high and as much or a little more in diameter at base. One of our party set fire to the structure, and while it was enveloped in flame and smoke a scorched rat ran out, which I shot. This was the only nest and only rat seen on the island."

This unfortunate circumstance, together with the fact that the skin was preserved in brine, explains the very poor condition in which it reached me. Enough remains, however, to show that the species differs remarkably from all known representatives of the genus in possessing a very dark belly, which, in this individual at least, is absolutely concolor with the back and sides. It may be added that the dark color of the under parts is in no way due to the scorching above mentioned. In all the previously described species the belly is pure white, or nearly white, in sharp contrast to the color of the upper parts.

This animal may be distinguished from its congeners by the following characters:

NEOTOMA BRYANTI sp. nov. *Bryant's Wood-Rat*. (Type No. 2838, male, immature; Merriam Collection.)
1833

Size large, about equal to that of eastern specimens of *N. floridana*; hind foot, 37 mm.; tail naked, its length uncertain, part of it being wanting; ears, apparently about the size of those of eastern *floridana*, but too imperfect to admit of measurement; head, throat, and body all round, dark slate color, almost sooty, exactly the same below as above, without trace of whitish on under parts. The feet may have been white, but it is impossible to tell from this specimen.

Behind each ear there is a patch of fulvous-tipped hairs, and it is possible that a superficial wash of this color was spread over much of the upper parts where the tips of the hairs have been singed off. The skull shows that the animal from which it came was full grown, but not quite adult. The grinding down of the molar teeth has only recently begun; consequently the deep pli-

cations along their sides are of unusual length. The enamel of the front upper molar forms two well-marked re-entrant angles of the inner side of the tooth. The pattern of the crowns of the molar teeth in both jaws is the same as in eastern specimens of *floridana* of corresponding age. The incisive foramina extend posteriorly beyond the plane of the anterior roots of the first molars. The pterygoid fossa is narrow, as in all the western forms of the genus,—very unlike its condition in eastern *floridana*. The condyloid process of the mandible is decidedly longer than in any of the other species. The zygomatic breadth is noticeably less than in the other members of the genus, which may be due in part to the immaturity of the individual, the zygomæ usually arching outward with age. The length of the molar series is conspicuously greater than in eastern skulls of *floridana* of the same size, and the molar series are much nearer together. This last character, however, is common to the western representatives of the genus.

Comparison with the western forms of the *floridana* type has been intentionally withheld because of the unsatisfactory if not chaotic condition in which these forms have been left by recent writers.

The new species is named in honor of its discoverer, Mr. Walter E. Bryant, of Oakland, California.

The following cranial measurements will suffice for present purposes (all measurements in millimetres):

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| Basilar length (from one of the occipital condyles to posterior edge of alveola of incisor of same side)..... | 41.80 |
| Basilar length of Hensel (from inferior lip of foramen magnum to posterior edge of alveola of incisor)..... | 38.20 |
| Occipito-nasal length (from occipital crest in median line to most anterior point of nasals, a measurement of very little value)..... | 45.80 |
| Greatest zygomatic breadth..... | 22.50 |
| Least breadth of frontals at interorbital constriction..... | 5.50 |
| Greatest length of nasal bones..... | 17.70 |
| Greatest width of nasal bones anteriorly..... | 5. |
| Least width of nasal bones posteriorly..... | 2.10 |
| Least width of rostrum in front of zygomæ..... | 4.80 |
| Distance between outer rims of alveolæ of upper incisors..... | 4.80 |
| Distance from posterior rim of alveola of incisor to anterior rim of alveola of first upper molar..... | 12.50 |
| Distance from posterior rim of alveola of incisor to post-palatal notch ("palatal length")..... | 20.80 |
| Length of upper molar series measured on the alveolæ..... | 10.40 |
| Length of upper molar series measured on the crowns..... | 8.30 |
| Distance between alveolæ of upper molar series anteriorly..... | 2.70 |
| Distance between alveolæ of upper molar series posteriorly..... | 4.40 |
| Width of pterygoid fossa..... | 2. |
| Apex of post-palatal notch to foramen magnum..... | 17. |
| Height of cranium from inferior lip of foramen magnum..... | 11.20 |
| Fronto-palatal depth (taken at middle of molar series)..... | 11.80 |
| Greatest length of single mandible (exclusive of incisors)..... | 29.30 |
| Distance from incisors to first molar (on alveolæ)..... | 6.30 |
| Length of under molariform series measured on the alveolæ..... | 9.80 |

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